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# Soil and Water Resources

## Conference Celebrates Tax Renewal

The 58th annual Soil and Water Districts training conference went off without a hitch, Nov. 27 to 29, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.

About 701 district employees, supervisors and other conservation advocates came together to promote this year's theme, *Celebrate Conservation*. The conference focused on the renewal of the parks-and-soils sales tax, which passed by a margin of over 70 percent in August.

The format of the conference was a bit different this year. The joint meeting of the Soil and Water Districts Commission and the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) began at 10 a.m. on Monday morning followed by their individual meetings. Workshops were also repeated so that more people could attend.

Elizabeth Brown, chair of the commission, welcomed everyone during the opening session banquet on Monday night and introduced Krysta Harden, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) chief executive officer. Harden

awards to the MoSWIMS, a new web-based computer system, pilot districts recognizing them for their efforts.

A variety of workshops were offered this year including an update on CREP, workers compensation, Sunshine law and new

supervisor and employee orientation. Tuesday night ended with a banquet and employee awards, followed by entertainment from Moose and Da Sharks, a seven-member oldies band from Eastpointe, Mich.

There were three workshop

sessions on Wednesday and the event concluded with a luncheon and door prizes.

We want to thank everyone for making this year's conference a successful one. We value your input, and if you would like to see any changes to the format for next year, please feel free to call the program office to let us know.

*more pictures on pages 2 and 3*



*Members of Moose and Da Sharks, an oldies band from Eastpointe, Mich., perform at Tuesday night's banquet.*

spoke of how proud Missourians should be that they passed the parks-and-soils state tax by such a high margin.

Tuesday started off with area meetings and the MASWCD annual meeting. Doyle Childers, director of the Department of Natural Resources, spoke during lunch, outlining his priorities and goals as he handed out

## Photos from the 2006 Training Conference



**Outstanding District Clerk**  
Lori Nowak, Franklin County



**Outstanding District Manager**  
Mary McCune, Marion County



**Outstanding District Manager**  
Donna Smith, Saline County



**Outstanding District Technician**  
Jim Freeburger, Benton County

## 2006 Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association Awards



**Outstanding Information/Education**  
William Bohnert Jr., Jackson County



**Outstanding SALT Manager**  
Bill Hunt, Caldwell County



**Outstanding Supervisor**  
Mike Martin, Saline County

## 2006 Poster Awards “Water Wise”



**Hannah Hall, 3rd Grade**  
Norborne Elementary School  
Carroll County



**Connor Ruoff, 6th Grade**  
Chillicothe Middle School  
Livingston County



**Ciara McMillan, 7th Grade**  
St. Mary's School  
Howard County



**Timberlie Wallace, 11th Grade**  
Galena High School  
Stone County

**Not Pictured: Kourtney Davis, 1st Grade, Fair Play R-II, Polk County**

## 2006 Soil and Water Conservation District Awards



**Grassland Farmer of the Year**  
Robert Simmons, Cass County



**Cooperator of the Year**  
A. F. Yarick, Bates County



**Teacher of the Year**  
Russell Barton, St. Louis County

## DNR Director's Awards



**DNR District of the Year**  
Saline County



**Envirothon Team**  
Parkway North High School, St. Louis County



**Grassland Evaluation Team**  
Aurora FFA, Lawrence County



**DNR Award Certificate for MoSWIMS Pilot Districts**

(l-r) Diana Mayfield, Gasconade SWCD, Patricia Lambert, Harrison SWCD, Joyce Rider, Bates SWCD, Peggy Lemons, Cole SWCD, Cindy Bowne, Boone SWCD, and Carol Benedick, Saline SWCD **not pictured:** Marilyn Roberts, Holt SWCD, Sandy Hutchison, Maries SWCD and Joyce Gross, Lafayette SWCD

## More Photos



Elizabeth Brown, chair of the commission, welcomes everyone during the opening session banquet Monday night.



Krysta Harden, chief executive officer of NACD and keynote speaker, talks to the crowd at the opening session banquet.



Christa Jones, NACD North Central Regional Representative, listens to a comment during her workshop, "When I Grow Up, I Want to be a Conservation District Supervisor."



Members of St. Francois soil and water conservation district pose during the 50s banquet on Tuesday night.



David Kiesling discusses his presentation during "Learning from Others," an information/education workshop.



A group listens as George Seek from Ducks Unlimited presents, "Opportunities in Farmland Protection," during the round-table discussion workshop.



# Cost-Share Corner

## Change in Payment Estimate on the DWC-1

Within the past year, NRCS has revised the definition for the earthfill cost-share component used for construction of the water impoundment reservoir practice (DWC-1). A change in measurement and method for estimating payment from “settled fill” to “constructed fill” may affect the total estimated cost for construction, if the district did not take into account this change when the new county average cost was generated.

While this change affects the method for estimating payment, it does not require the contractor to do any more work, and it

should not require the construction of the structure to cost more. If your county average cost was generated from using actual receipts that were paid based on settled fill, it may be necessary for the district to reduce the county average cost for the construction cost to remain the same.

If the district finds that, based on constructed fill, the number of estimated unit quantities are significantly greater, you may want to consider reducing your county average cost by a similar percentage to keep costs equal to what was being paid for a similar size structure a year ago.

Keep in mind that while a district can not use a county average cost that is greater than

that approved, if deemed appropriate, the district can offer a lesser amount. Likewise, if your district must take the earthfill component off of the state list, you can use a county average cost that is less than that included on the state list, if it is needed.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Cost-Share Unit in the program office at (573) 751-4932.



# Employee Happenings

## NEW SOIL SCIENTIST JOINS STAFF



Brian Fredrick, a soil scientist, joined the soil and water staff in the Southwest Regional Office in Springfield on Nov. 16.

Fredrick has been involved with natural resources for the past 10 years as a student, intern, hydrologic technician, hydrologist and water quality scientist in Missouri and Nebraska.

He has plenty of experience in this field. He worked with surface and ground water quality and quantity related to land use and resource

management, as well as unsaturated soil zone water quality sampling in agricultural areas. He has also done quite a bit of mapping using GIS and GPS technologies.

He is proud to be working for the state of Missouri and would like to combine his knowledge of soil science with his existing knowledge of sediment and water quality in order to help soil and water conservation districts. He is looking forward to working hard, learning new things and making some friends.

Fredrick is originally from Springfield and when he is not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family, learning about the history of the Ozarks, barbecuing, fishing and floating Ozark streams.



## Dates to Remember



**January 1 - New Year's**

**January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**January 17 - Commission meeting at the DNR Conference Center**

**February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday**

**February 14 - Valentine's Day**

**February 16 - Commission meeting at the DNR Conference Center**

**February 19 - Presidents' Day**

**February 22 - Washington's Birthday**

# Is It Time to Hold District Supervisor Elections?

Many districts hold their elections in conjunction with the annual meeting in the spring, so this is a good time to update all the districts on the required election procedures. Below is a list of rules and procedures that was developed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission for your district board to follow.

1. The election shall be held by the date or within four months after the date of the terms that are expiring.
2. The SWCD board shall identify one nominating committee for each territory where there is a need for an election. The committee shall consist of three land representatives residing in the area and no elected supervisor can serve on the committee.
3. The committee needs to submit at least two qualified candidates to the board no less than two months prior to the election date.
4. The board shall publish two legal notices of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. One notice shall appear in the latest issue distributed before the election, and the other notice shall appear one week prior to the final notice.
5. The board needs to find three official election judges for each polling place. They must be residents and landowners within the proposed district.
6. The board shall provide a locked or sealed ballot box at each polling location. The board shall also provide the ballots, tally sheets, voter registration sheet and storage envelope for the voted ballots.
7. The requirement for the poll to be open depends on if the election is held in conjunction with an annual meeting. If the election is held at the same time as an annual meeting, the poll should be open in a central location no later than noon and moved to the meeting location later. The time for closing the polls at each location should be included in the legal notice. If there is no annual meeting then the poll needs to be open for not less than six hours.
8. Once the voting is finished and the election judges have tallied the votes and certified the election, the board needs to complete and sign two copies of the Report and Certification of the Supervisor Election form. One copy will be kept permanently in the soil and water conservation program office. After the election, the board needs to reorganize and elect new officers.

These are the steps the supervisors need to follow when conducting an election. Below are some common questions and answers a district might have.

## **Q. Who is eligible to be a soil and water conservation district supervisor?**

- A. To qualify for office, a candidate shall
1. Be a land representative,
  2. Be a resident taxpayer within that SWCD for two years next preceding the election date,
  3. Be a cooperator of the SWCD and
  4. Reside in or own a farm lying in the same territory where the nominating committee has responsibility.

## **Q. What is a land representative?**

- A. Land representative—the owner, or representative authorized by power of attorney, of any farm lying within the SWCD; provided, however, that any land representative must be a taxpayer of the county within which the SWCD is located.

## **Q. Who can vote?**

- A. Only a land representative is eligible to cast a vote in SWCD supervisor elections.

## **Q. Can a legal land representative who was not nominated by the committee but resides in the territory where an office term is expiring have their name placed on the ballot?**

- A. Yes—if they meet the preceding qualifications and complete the following requirements:
1. They must secure petition signatures of 10 legal land representatives in the territory where an office term is expiring.
  2. They must submit the petition to the SWCD board not less than 10 days before the date of the election.

If you have additional questions regarding the supervisor election process more information is available at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/10csr/10c70-2.pdf>. You can also look in section IV, page 4.26-4.30 in your Operations Manual or contact your district coordinator or the program office at (573) 751-4932.



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## Memos At A Glance

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### **2007-012 District Assistance Grants Expansion for FY-08**

Discusses the proposed expansion of the district assistance grant.

### **2007-013 Invoices with Welding and Pipe Fabrication Costs**

Clarifies the rules regarding invoices on welding and pipe fabrication.

### **2007-014 Training Conference Information and Reimbursement Form**

Included with this memo is the reimbursement request form for conference sleeping rooms.

### **2007-015 Approving a DSP-3 Application Prior to the CRP Contract Expiring**

Explains the Soil and Water Districts Commission's changes to their policy related to the use of state cost-share on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

### **2007-016 AgNPS SALT Update**

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification to the AgNPS SALT handbook regarding the N391 Riparian Forest Buffer.

### **2007-017 News Release and Follow-Up from Training Conference**

This memo included a sample news release on the training conference for districts to submit to their local papers.

### **2007-018 Upcoming Nutrient Management Training**

The purpose of this memo is to inform the soil and water conservation districts with current AgNPS SALT projects about a nutrient management training session scheduled for Feb. 13 and 14, 2007.

### **2007-019 Request for Quarterly District Cost-Share (DCS) Reports and Reconciliation of District Cost-Share Claims**

This is a reminder to send both the cost-share ledger summary report and the fund status report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY-07, which ends Dec. 31, 2006.